(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) to (d) The incorporation, regulation and winding up of private Universities is within the competence of the State Legislatures. However, in order to maintain the standards of higher education, the UGC (Establishment of and Maintenance of Standards in Private Universities) Regulations, 2003 were issued in 2003 and are presently in force.

At present, only the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) has framed regulations, which were last revised in the year 2005, for the entry and operation of foreign universities/institutions for imparting technical education in India. A legislative proposal for regulating the entry and operation of foreign educational institutions, in India is under consideration of the Government.

A Review Committee has been constituted by Government under the chairmanship of Prof. Yash Pal, former Chairman, University Grants Commission to review the functioning of the University Grants Commission and the All India Council for Technical Education in the wake of the changes in higher, professional and technical education in India and demands of a new knowledge economy.

Prices of soft drinks

*400. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that prices of soft drinks are very high in proportion to their cost;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government has enquired about it through any committee; and

(d) if so, what is the report of that committee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) and (b) The prices of non-essential commodities, including soft drinks, are governed by market forces. No abnormal rise in the prices of soft drinks has come to the notice of the Government.

(c) and (d) No committee has been appointed for the purpose by this Ministry.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Subsidy scbeme for development of mega food parks

2792. SHRIMATI SUPRTYA SULE:
SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether, in a bid to boost the food processing industries, Government is considering a Rs. 1,500 crore subsidy scheme for development of mega food parks across the country;

(b) if so, whether as per the proposal, the food parks would be developed by a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV), jointly by Central Government, the State Governments and the private sector; and

(c) if so, by when a final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) to (c) Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MFPI) for development and growth of food processing sector, has developed a scheme for providing financial assistance for establishment of Mega Food Parks, which envisages a well-defined agri/horticultural-processing zone containing state of the art processing facilities with support infrastructure and well established supply chain. The scheme aims to provide a mechanism to bring together farmers, processors and retailers and link agricultural production to the market so as to ensure maximization of value addition, minimization of wastages and improving farmers' income. The primary objective of the scheme is to facilitate establishment of an integrated value chain, with processing at the core and supported by requisite backward and forward linkages. The scheme is project oriented. The locations of the Mega Food Parks have to be selected on demand-driven cluster based approach with delineated supply chain and well supported by pre-feasibility studies.

The Scheme envisages financial assistance in the form of grant-in-aid upto 50% of the project cost in general areas and up to 75% of the project cost in special category states subject to a maximum of Rs. 50.00 crores or the cost of approved facilities, whichever is lower, for all implementing agencies including private sector. The scheme provides for establishment of 30 Mega Food Parks with MFPI financial assistance of Rs. 1500 crore during the Eleventh Five Year Plan.

The ownership and management of the Mega Food Park would vest with a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) in which organized retailers, processors, service providers, farmers etc. may be the equity holders or there may be an anchor investor along with its ancillaries, associated companies and other stakeholders. The government agencies may also be shareholders in SPV upto a maximum of 49%-.

The Mega Food Park scheme is under finalization and upon approval and notification of the scheme, formal proposals would be invited and investors identified.

Grants for development of food processing sector

2793. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
MS. MABEL REBELLO:

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to grant Rs. 10 crore for promotion of food processing sector during the Eleventh Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government proposes to launch a comprehensive cold chain infrastructure scheme, with a view to set up of cold storages at different places in the country, under this project; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, *inter-alia* indicating the cold storage facilities that are proposed to be created in Orissa and Jharkhand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) and (b) The Planning Commission